


REMARKS

The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed October 6, 2004. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's statement that claims 1, 9-14, 16-23, 31-36, 38-46 and 48-54 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 1, 10, 11, 12, 23 and 32 have been amended in order to overcome the informalities objections in the Office Action. Claims 1, 9-14, 16-23, 31-36, 38-46 and 48-54 are now in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding objections to the claims and to pass this application to issue.

Dated: January 6, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Thomas J. D'Amico

Registration No. 28,371

Salvatore P. Tamburo

Registration No. 45,153

DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN &

OSHINSKY LLP

2101 L Street NW

Washington, DC 20037-1526

(202) 785-9700

Attorneys for Applicant